

INDOT Events Showcase Equipment, Technology and Technical Capabilities

INDOT's Engineering and Asset Management divisions hosted events this month that demonstrated *show and tell* isn't just for children.

Bridges, Asset Management, and Research and Development divisions, along with the Joint Transportation Research Program, held the Field Data Collection Equipment Showcase on April 21 at Central Office.

Engineers and technicians were on hand to demonstrate and discuss equipment, display the types of data generated, and describe how this data is used by INDOT in making data-driven decisions. The event featured 10 stations: nine trucks that housed various field data equipment and an area that displayed traffic data collection equipment.



INDOT field data trucks line Robert D. Orr Plaza during the Field Data Collection Equipment Showcase.

Employees toured the stations and spoke with co-workers about the technology's capabilities and how it could apply to their division's work. The curiosity of attendees was evident at each station. INDOT employees asked questions, reviewed handouts, handled equipment, and even climbed into the trucks for a closer look.

"The event reinforced my understanding and appreciation of how INDOT uses technology and innovation in everyday ways to collect information about our roads, bridges, and traffic operations – far more accurately and efficiently than ever imaginable just a few short years ago," said Traffic Engineering Director Brad Steckler.

The highlights of the event were the skills of field employees and the usefulness of this technology for the agency.

"The testing personnel's enthusiasm, professionalism and knowledge were mentioned by several visitors," said Research and Development Director Barry Partridge. "Visitors also commented how this collection of field data has proved to be very cost-effective for INDOT."

Jameson Rivers, an INDOT Graduate Engineer Development Program employee, attended the event with an environmental engineer. Rivers explained how the engineer learned about additional resources available to other INDOT divisions.



During the Field Data Collection Equipment Showcase, Dwayne Harris (left) demonstrates ground penetrating radar to employees (left to right) Joe Bussing, Zach Fordice and Steve George.

“There was a piece of equipment that INDOT owns that would make surveying and plotting a site much easier, but the environmental engineer was not aware that the technology was available,” said Rivers. “Now, she is looking into if it can be implemented into her current work.”

Field data collection services are available for any INDOT division; more information can be found on the [Research and Development Division](#) webpage.

The Engineering and Asset Management Business Unit plans to host similar events in each INDOT district later this year.

Earlier this month, the Asset Management Division held its first open house educational exhibit. Employees gathered at Central Office to learn about technical tools, technology, data and available services utilized by the division.

The open house was set up to model a school science fair. Each of the division’s sections – technical planning, traffic statistics, technical modeling and asset management – had

room to showcase their work for employees to learn about available services, and discuss opportunities to integrate activities with other divisions.

“We had a few visitors who provided additional opportunities to share information or, for our division, to use their data for many of our planning analysis activities,” said Roy Nunnally, director of asset planning and management. “It was a two-way street, as we learned a lot from those who visited this event.”



Roy Nunnally (right) explains INDOT’s technical modeling tools to Mir Zaheer (left) and Yuhui Hu.